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LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1 1. (currently amended) A heterodyne receiver for use in optical switch fabrics
2 comprising:
3 a tunable oscillator circuit for outputting a predetermined local
4 oscillation frequency signal to a frequency mixer;
5 said frequency mixer for mixing an input data signal and said predetermined local
6 oscillation frequency signal and outputting substantially similar mixed signals on at least
7 two separate paths;
8 a current comparing means for comparing said mixed signals and generating a
9 voltage value indicative of a difference in current within said at least two separate paths;
10 a gain clipped post amplifier for amplifying said voltage value such that a
11 baseband first signal is generated; and
12 a decision circuit for receiving said baseband first signal and producing a resultant
13 logic signal.
- 1 2. (currently amended) The heterodyne receiver of claim 1, further comprising a
2 low-pass filter for filtering said baseband first signal.
- 1 3. (original) The heterodyne receiver of claim 1, wherein said low-pass filter
2 comprises an SMA connector.
- 1 4. (original) The heterodyne receiver of claim 1, wherein said tunable oscillator
2 circuit comprises a fast switchable laser.
- 1 5. (original) The heterodyne receiver of claim 1, wherein said frequency mixer
2 comprises a 3dB coupler.

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- 1 6. (original) The heterodyne receiver of claim 1, wherein said current comparing
2 means comprises two photodiodes and a differential amplifier.
- 1 7. (currently amended) The heterodyne receiver of claim 1, wherein said gain
2 clipped ~~post~~ amplifier is operated in saturation.
- 1 8. (currently amended) The heterodyne receiver of claim 1, wherein said decision
2 circuit produces a logic high output if said ~~baseband~~ first signal is higher than a
3 predetermined threshold and produces a logic low output if said ~~baseband~~ first signal is
4 lower than a predetermined threshold.
- 1 9. (original) The heterodyne receiver of claim 1, further comprising at least one
2 respective delay line and at least one respective attenuator in each of said at least two
3 separate paths for making the signal propagation time and loss in said at least two
4 separate paths substantially equal.
- 1 10. (original) The heterodyne receiver of claim 1, wherein said decision circuit
2 comprises a limiting amplifier.
- 1 11. (currently amended) An optical switch fabric, comprising:
2 a plurality of optical transmitters;
3 a multiplexer for combining the optical channels of said optical
4 transmitters;
5 a power splitter for splitting said combined optical channels; and
6 at least one receiver for receiving at least one of said split, combined
7 optical channels, each of said at least one receivers comprising:
8 a tunable oscillator circuit for outputting a predetermined local
9 oscillation frequency signal to a frequency mixer;
10 said frequency mixer for mixing said received split, combined optical
11 channels and said predetermined local oscillation frequency signal and outputting
12 substantially similar mixed signals on at least two separate paths;

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13 a current comparing means for receiving said mixed signals via said at
14 least two separate paths and for generating a voltage value indicative of a
15 difference in current within said at least two separate paths;
16 a gain clipped ~~post~~ amplifier for amplifying said voltage value such that a
17 baseband first signal is generated; and
18 a decision circuit for receiving said ~~baseband~~ first signal and producing a
19 resultant logic signal.

1 12. (original) The optical switch fabric of claim 11, wherein the signals of said
2 plurality of transmitters are delayed replicas of each other, except that two of them are in
3 phase.

1 13. (original) The optical switch fabric of claim 11, further comprising an amplifier
2 for amplifying said combined optical channels.

1 14. (original) The optical switch fabric of claim 11, further comprising a polarizer for
2 polarizing said combined optical channels such that all of the optical channels propagate
3 with substantially the same polarizations.

1 15. (original) The optical switch fabric of claim 11, further comprising a central
2 clock distribution unit and delay lines.

1 16. (currently amended) A method of channel selection for use in optical switch
2 fabrics, comprising:
3 mixing an input data signal and a local oscillation frequency signal from a tunable
4 oscillator circuit to generate substantially similar mixed signals on at least two separate
5 paths;
6 comparing said mixed signals using a current comparing means and generating a
7 voltage value indicative of a difference in current within said at least two separate paths;
8 amplifying said voltage value using a gain clipped amplifier such that a ~~baseband~~
9 first signal is generated; and

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10 determining from said baseband first signal a resultant logic signal.

1 17. (canceled) ~~The method of claim 16, wherein said voltage value is gain clipped by~~
2 ~~said amplifying.~~

1 18. (currently amended) A heterodyne receiver for use in optical switch fabrics
2 comprising:

3 means for mixing an input data signal and a local oscillation frequency signal
4 from a tunable oscillator circuit to generate substantially similar mixed signals on at least
5 two separate paths;

6 means for comparing said mixed signals and generating a voltage value indicative
7 of a difference in current within said at least two separate paths;

8 means for amplifying said voltage value with gain clipping such that a baseband
9 first signal is generated; and

10 means for determining from said baseband first signal a resultant logic signal.